

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend first paragraph on page 14 as follows:

Surprisingly, it has been shown that for injection-molded parts made of the polyamide nanocomposites produced according to the present invention, a good surface quality was achieved when a first part (e.g., 60 to 80 weight-percent, preferably 70 weight-percent) of the polyamide granulate of the polyamides, i.e. less than the total amount of polyamide in the final nanocomposite composition, was dosed into the intake of the extruder and the organically modified layered silicate (preferably 2 to 8 weight-percent based on the total nanocomposite composition, especially preferably 2 to 6 weight-percent, very especially preferably 2.5 to 6 weight-percent) was dosed into the melt of this granulate component. This was preferably performed without using a side feeder, simply through gravity, so that then approximately 40-20%, (preferably 30 weight-percent) of the layered silicates are in the mixed melt referred to in the following as the "masterbatch".

Please amend first paragraph on page 15 as follows:

A second part of the polyamides is ~~first~~ not added until later in order - in only one single further step - to set the final concentration of the layered silicate at, at most, 10% in the melt of the polyamide nanocomposites. Through this two-step technique, optimal exfoliation of the layered silicate is achieved, without agglomerates forming in the polyamide nanocomposite molding compounds. This addition of the second part of the polyamides is preferably performed via a side feeder; alternatively, the second part of the polyamides may also be added to the melt mixture in the extruder through dripping in.

Please amend first paragraph on page 16 as follows:

The use of organic ammonium salts (cf. Examples 1 and 2) has proved itself for the organic silicate modification. More recent experiments have shown, however, that layered, silicates, which were organically modified using phosphonium salts of the formula $P-R_4-X$ produce an especially good, if not even better surface quality of the injection-molded parts in combination with the production method according to the present invention. In this case, R

represents three alkyl or aryl residues and X represents a Cl, Br, or I. An explanation for the especially good result may be the phosphonium salts cause an especially high thermal resistance of the polyamide nanocomposites.